

5/29/68

Dear Phil,

Your letter of 5/17, with enclosures, awaited me on my return from a speaking trip and investigations in New Orleans. Many thanks. I will go over the transcript as soon as I clear up what I must, and that towers!

This, I think, is a subject like no other. Therefore, I believe that writers and others working with it must be more exhaustive, spend more time on what might seem like trivial details, for we do not, really, know what is not trivial. In the interest of the Thornleys, all details must be searched out, too, otherwise, particularly when they are like Thornley, they may suffer unjustly.

I now have reason to believe he accidentally came into possession of important information he has since withheld, information that does not involve him personally but is vital in the whole story. He overheard things when he was in federal offices being interrogated.

This trip I was able to seek knowledge about a man who has interested me for a while, whose involvement is not clear, and who is now confined in a mental institution, said to be possessed of the mind of a six-year-old. He was injured 17 years ago, when 15. Thereafter, he was intermittently institutionalized as a schizo. He is said to have been unemployable. I find he also was a musician, a poet, a witty and entertaining man, perhaps an actor.

He may also be one of the victims.

I am getting copies of poems he wrote. For his mother I will photocopy them and bind them in a book. I am wondering whether I could get you to read them and give me an appraisal of them and what you think you can get of him from them? If you are willing, when the time comes I will tell you a little about him.

Because there is much pressure in the Garrison office and there is the possibility of originals getting lost, to protect your papers I did photocopy them. I send the copies to Harrison and have the originals here. If he needs the originals, I will supply them. When he does not, I will return them. They are still in the envelope in which you mailed them.

Should some time elapse without the return of the books - and I think there were three, not two - the lawyer to whom I handed them is Andrew Sciambra.

Again, my thanks.

Sincerely,

Harold Weisberg